and in Chittoor and its suburban area in the Chittoor district. The question of abolishing statutory rationing of rice in the Anantapur, Kurnool and Bellary districts also is under the consideration of the Government. Rationing in the towns of Periyakulam, Bodinayakanur and Palni in the Madura district has been abolished with effect from 22nd February 1948. The Government are also considering the question of abolishing rationing in the municipal towns of South Kanara district and in Villupuram and Cuddalore towns in South Arcot district. As regards the other deficit districts, statutory rationing will be abolished as soon as conditions permit."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, if the Government are aware that as far as Ceded Districts are concerned, they are deficit districts?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI C. VEERABHADRA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government received the resolution passed by the Vizagapatam Food Committee to abolish rationing in the district and particularly in the municipality?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, Sir. I have already said that the matter is under the consideration of the Government."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know, Sir, when is rationing going to be abolished in the Trichinopoly Municipality?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Representations have been received from the Trichinopoly Municipality and they are being considered by the Government, Sir."

Machkund Project.

* 21 *Q.*—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) what amount the Government have spent so far on the Machkund Project;

(*b*) what is the progress of the work; and

(*c*) when is the project expected to be completed?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Rs. 8,21,935 to end of November 1947.

" (*b*) *Land acquisition.*—Land acquisition is in progress, both the Governments of Madras and Orissa having their survey parties working at site.

Roads—(i) *Lambadaput-Machkund road.*—Designs for permanent bridges and culverts have been approved for some streams and sent to field for execution. Designs for the remaining ones are being finalized in the technical office of the Electricity Department. Work on the road is proceeding in the various reaches and are in different stages of progress.

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(ii) *Vizagapatam-Araku-Jeypore road.*—On the Madras side investigation is in progress. The detailed estimates are expected to be ready by April 1948. Field work on the Orissa side is yet to be started. Tenders for collection of metal for the road have been received but not yet decided.

Diversion—dam and intake.—Exploration of foundation by power Calyx drilling is in progress. Design of the dam section has been finalized.

Flume channel.—Excavation and deepening of trial pits along the centre line of alignment are in progress.

Tunnel pond dam.—Preliminary exploration work is in progress.

Tunnel.—Tenders have been called for for the work.

Camps and buildings—(i) *Nowgam and Korsapada camps—Temporary hutments.*—Work completed.

Temporary water-supply arrangements are in progress and supply effected to some areas.

(ii) *Chikumpet camp.*—Work on 29 blocks of 2 'E' type quarters is in progress. Also work on 15 blocks of sheet type quarters has been taken up.

In regard to other buildings, as there was no response for the tenders in most cases and as in a few cases the rates quoted were very high, the estimates are being revised as per actual conditions in field and action will be taken to give the work on contract either by calling for tenders or on negotiated basis when estimates are finalized.

Formation of road to officers' quarters is nearing completion, and widening and revetment are in progress.

(iii) *Permanent water-supply.*—Certain alterations to the design of the water-supply reservoir weir have been proposed and are being attended to.

(iv) *Onukudelli camp.*—Revised layout for the camp with a view to have all permanent buildings at Onukudelli is awaited from the field.

Construction power supply.—A 22 K.W. generating set was erected and put into commission from 24th January 1948. Erection of posts and street lights are in progress. Service connexions are being given to the buildings and the work is in progress consistent with the availability of materials.

Stores and transport.—Except for a few cases of paints and electrical materials purchased at Vizianagram and Vizagapatam no other important materials have been received. Most of the materials from Jeypore stores have been transported to site. Bulk of the materials from Bobbili except a few heavy ones also have been conveyed to the site.

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Transmission line construction division—110 K.V. line.—Reconnaissance and survey of the 110 K.V. line from Vizagapatam to Rajahmundry and Machkund to Vizagapatam are in progress.

The daily average labour strength during January 1948 was 1,154. New recruitments are being made with difficulty and tenders have been invited for labour.

"(c) The first stage of development is expected to be completed by September 1951 as tentatively programmed at present."

Retention of retired Government servants in service.

* 22 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of officers who were and are due to retire but are still retained in service (1) on account of extension of service and (2) re-employment;

(b) whether in all cases such extension or re-employment has been made on the recommendation of the head of the department;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints that such extensions or re-employment prove detrimental to the interests of those in service and who are qualified and are looking forward to promotions; and

(d) whether the Government will be pleased to state the considerations which influence them either for extension of or re-employment in service?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) The number of officers retained in Gazetted and non-Gazetted service, (1) on account of extension of service is 23 and (2) on account of re-employment is 127. The Government consider that in the interest of economy in stationery and printing, a list of these persons need not be printed and placed on the table of the House. If the hon. Member wants such a list, he may obtain one on application from the Deputy Secretary to Government in the Finance Department.

"(b) In all but three cases re-employment or extension was sanctioned on the advice of the concerned head of department.

"(c) The answer is in the affirmative. Two complaints from individual officers and two from Service Associations.

"(d) Government servants are generally not granted any extension of service. When the services of an officer who is about to retire are considered necessary, the officer is usually retired and subsequently re-employed. The policy of the Government is to discourage even cases of such re-employment; and this policy is followed except when public interest